

The Pocahontas Times.

If thou would'st read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

Vol. 22, No. 31.

Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, February 11, 1904.

\$1.00 a Year

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DR. J. J. CAMPBELL,
Dentist,
MONTREY, VA.
Will visit Pocahontas county at
least twice a year. The exact date
of his visit will appear in this
paper.

DR. ERNEST B. HILL,
DENTIST,
Graduate University of Maryland.
Dentistry practiced in all its branches.

G. W. DUNCAN,
Practical Land Surveyor,
Buckeye, W. Va.
All calls by phone and mail
promptly answered.

W. Virginia Citizens Trust and
Guarantee Company
This company will furnish bonds
of all county, state and municipal
officers; fiduciary bonds, such as
administrators, guardians, etc.;
surety bonds of all kinds; attach-
ment bonds, etc.

A HERMIT.

NAMED THARP WHO HAD A PHILOSOPHIC TURN.

An Eccentric Individual Who Lived In Highland.

East of McDowell some seven
or more miles lies the valley of
Shaw's Fork.

At the time indicated by the
contents of this article this valley
formed by Shaw's Ridge running
parallel to the Shenandoah, was
sparsely settled the farms being
small but neatly cultivated.

Tharp's peach orchard near the
head of Shaw's Fork was a fa-
miliar locality having been planted
by Amos Tharp whose acquain-
tance it was my pleasure to form
in the summer time of 1880. I
am largely indebted to the late
Joseph Layne of McDowell for
the most of the "traditionary ma-
terial of which this sketch is com-
piled.

Early one morning in the
twenties a young man came down
one of the Shenandoah highways
remained on Shaw's Fork for sev-
eral days and in the meanwhile
was employed to teach school.

The stranger "was full of talk"
about almost everything except as
to his own personal origin. This
was much of a puzzle to the
elderly ladies of the Valley and
possibly to the girls, too to find
out where he was raised, who his
parents were and how it came
that he strayed off so far from
civilization as this place among
the wilds of Virginia. I have
investigated as critically as I could
the traditionary gossip the con-
jectures of aged persons living in
1880 and such evasive answers
as I may have heard of his replies
to direct questions when inter-
rogated by the more boldly in-
quisitive and I feel in the conclusion
that Mr. Tharp was a native of
New Jersey, and for some reason
understood only by himself left
home in early manhood and
sought employment in the locality
at that time exceedingly isolated.

After a few months he seemed
to form an ardent attachment not
for some one of the comely
maiden who had hitherto been
breathing their sweetness on this
mountain air nor for the people
generally, but for the sterile soil
and brushy hills of the upper end
of the valley.

He industriously set about
securing fee simple possession of
as much as he could. It was evi-
dent that his will was perfectly
good to have added patch to patch
hillside to hillside and cabin to
cabin until he could dwell alone
in the midst of this neck of the
woods.

Had it not been for the spirit
of self-contentedness and the
love of their homes on the part
of the residents Mr. Tharp might
have carried his point. By some
means a magnetic needle came
into his possession being a rem-
nant of some old or broken sur-
veyor's compass. With this
needle and a pewter dish he con-
trived a compass which he used
in running his lines and in hunt-
ing bee-trees.

There is a tradition extant il-
lustrating his skill with this com-
pass as really surprising and it
also affords an illustration of the
acuteness for which he was remark-
able in some things. Not far from
his land there was a tract in lit-
igation. The county surveyor in
running the lines by order of
court failed after repeated efforts
to find one of the corners.

One of the parties interested, pro-
posed that the school master with
his pewter plate compass should be
sent for. This was agreed to by
the others as promising of
fine sport at the least; a little fun
would be enjoyable to say the
least.

The pewter dish surveyor how-
ever took it all in dead earnest
and came as requested. Taking
the bearing in question he meas-
ured the distance called for then taking
the reverse bearing he measured

the required distance back to the
point of starting.

After a moment's reflection he
said, "gentlemen the corner is
within six feet of this spot, send
for a mattock and dig where I
direct you." It was done as he
directed and in a little while the
charred remains of a stump and
roots of a tree were found.

It was thereupon made evident
that some one had fraudulently
cut the tree down close to the
ground and attempted to conceal
all traces by burning the stump
beneath the surface, then care-
fully covering with earth and
leaves. Such was his success
with the compass that he next
next undertook the construction
of a contrivance by which gravity
or the perpetual motion might be
applied to some useful purpose as
well as electricity as Dr. Frank-
lin had been born too soon for
him to have the opportunity to
harness the lightning to the bar
of human progress. While work-
ing out this great idea it occurred
to Mr. Tharp that while the head
was busy with theories the hands
might be usefully employed in
building a house. It required
but an hour to plan the dwelling
after which the head was left free
for excursions to that visionary
sphere wherein the perpetual mo-
tion is supposed to be waiting for
the fortunate and favoured one
to come along. While the head
was thus employed the hands took
up their allotted work. Timbers
for the frame of a dwelling of
colonial pretensions were collected
and fitted together. Then with
the help of the neighbors all were
reared and put in place. To this
frame work without roof, siding
or ceiling, a panel door was hung
fantastically ornamented with
carved wood and mouldings.

After finishing the elaborate
panel door he quarried stone for
a chimney which was in due time
built at the end of the unroofed
and partially naked frame. By
the time the chimney was finished
Mr. Tharp found he could not
complete his big house before
cold weather but having the eiga-
lity to perceive that it would be
of no use to have a chimney, un-
less one could keep fire in it he
conceived the happy idea of build-
ing a hut eight by ten within the
frame and occupying it until the
larger house should be finished
and then a house within a house
might be dispensed with. He
became so well satisfied however
with the little log tenement that
the frame with its ornamented
door remained roofless and other-
wise incomplete until the timbers
decayed and all fell one stormy
night several winters afterwards.

In the meantime his head hav-
ing failed to grasp the perpetual
motion phantory the search was
given up.

His next work for head and
hands was to compose a pronoun-
cing Dictionary of the Holy
Bible.

Several reams of the best paper
were ordered from Staunton, a
copious supply of red, black and
blue inks and dozens of the
largest goose quills provided. The
Bible words were written in
various colors. The capitals in
red, the accented syllables in
blue, the others in black, all exe-
cuted in a copy hand of remark-
able neatness, evincing superior
penmanship. Mr. Tharp found
this to be a more congenial oc-
cupation than anything else he
had ever undertaken. In search-
ing the scriptures for materials for
his book many of the more strik-
ing portions adhered to his re-
tentive memory and he was held
in high reputation as a Bible au-
thority by the neighbors.

So far as I could learn he did
not affiliate with any of the church
services in his reach.

He always played shy of any
attempts I could make to draw
him out. He had me impressed
with the idea that he had forgotten
more about the Bible than I ever
knew or ever would know, if I
did not change my way of look-
ing at the Bible through other
people's eyes; such is commen-
tations, big preachers and pro-
fessors of theology.

All this man's me feel what a
pitiful thing it was for an old man
to talk that way about the au-
thorized custodians of the truth.

Some one inquired of him how
he was getting along. His reply
was to the effect that like all old
men he was moving about with
bowed head and down cast eyes
and failing powers of body and
mind looking for the door in the
ground that opens into another
world.

As he was going up the wind-
ing Shenandoah road, one morn-
ing he was overtaken by the late
Dr. Wm. Brown in his day one
of the foremost divines of his de-
nominations.

Dr. Brown inquired of him as
to his hopes of the future.

"Stranger let me tell you that
if I am lost and I go down to the
pit it will be with a lighted
lamp before me."

The Doctor wrote an impres-
sive article in which he feelingly
lamented on the idea of the sad-
ness of perishing in the fall en-
joyment of light and knowledge.

As the old man's words im-
plied it is something too strange
for belief that a man with the
light before him would not avoid
the horrible gulf of despair.

In dress he was very peculiar
for he was manifestly of that class
who pride in looking ugly or
eccentric.

He was once summoned to
Franklin to attend Pendleton
court as a witness.

As he was walking leisurely
about taking in the sights of that
interesting mountain town, he was
accosted by a jovial upstart of a
fellow who sought to have some
fun at the expense of the philo-
sopher's hat. The hat was home
made of cat straw and of the bee-
hive pattern in shape and was
rather the worse for wear.

"Well old man will you be so
good as to tell me the time of day
by your old hat?" "It is about
to strike one," retorted the philo-
sopher. Amos Tharp as he
cleverly his flat drew back and
planted a blow near the funny
man's temple and laid him out to
the great merriment of the by-
standers.

The last time so far as I now
remember seeing the remarkable
old friend was a morning in June
1865.

John T. Armstrong, Francis
Conry and myself were near Mr.
Conry's home on the Bull Pasture
mountain, a mile or two above
McDowell. We were just begin-
ning to realize that there had been
a surrender, that the war was
technically over, and were discus-
sing among ourselves what the
North would do with us.

In the meanwhile, our old
friend joins us. Mr. Armstrong
exclaims "Why here is our old
Uncle Amos. He can tell us
what to think about these mat-
ters."

"Uncle Amos, don't you think
the North is going to treat us
Southern people mighty nicely,
now as we are whipped and have
to give up?" inquired Mr. Arm-
strong. "I have often wished
for a snap shot, as how the old
man appeared at that moment.
His rugged features flushed, his
eyes twinkled with suppressed
humor, he looked at the blue sky
as if following the flight of a
cloud or something else. In his
oracular tone he then said,
"Whenever you see an eagle take
up a little lamb, and fly away
with it until almost out of sight
and then come back and put the
lamb just as it was and where it
was then you will see how nicely
the North is going to treat the
South."

With me, they are virtually his
last words, for we never met
again.

Smart as my old friend was, I
have no idea he ever heard of
Hesiod and so I was much im-
pressed one day long afterwards
by reading this Hesiod that re-
called what he said about the
Eagle and the Lamb the June
morning referred to. Hesiod ut-
tered his parable nine hundred
years before the Christian era and

had the start of my old friend
by 2765 years.

A stooping hawk crook taloned
from the vale.

Bore in his pounce a neck-
streaked nightingale,
And matched among the clouds;
beneath the stroke

This piteous shrieked and that
impetuous spake:
Watch why these screams a
stranger holds thee now;

Where'er I shape my course a
captive thou,
Mangle thy song must company
my way;

I read my banquet or I loose
my prey,
Sustenance is he who dares with
power contend;

Defeat, rebuke, despair shall
be his end.

Hesiod puts the moral in the
mouth of the hawk, while my
philosophic friend puts the moral
in the minds of those who listen-
ed to him that lovely morning in
evidence. In looking over Hesiod
I find pith and point that make
my nerves tingle as to their ap-
plications to pending events, where he
points out that injustice and over-
bearing conduct not only crush
the poor citizen but eventually
the rich and the powerful fail to
stand before the consequences and
where he pictures the rule of right
and the rule of wrong and im-
pressively contrasts the effect of
each on the prosperity of com-
munities.

W. T. P.

Law Against Sheep Killing Dogs.

For the benefit of owners of
dogs we quote section 9 of Chap-
ter 63 of the Code of W. Va.,
which is as follows:

The owner or keeper of any
dog that has been worrying, chas-
ing, wounding or killing any
sheep or lambs (not the property
of such owner or keeper) out of
his enclosure, shall within forty-
eight hours after having received
notice thereof in writing from re-
liable and trustworthy source, cause
such dog to be killed. For every
neglect so to do, he shall forfeit
the sum of three dollars and the
further sum of one dollar and fifty
cents for every twenty-four hours
thereafter, until such dog is killed,
unless he shall satisfactorily appear
to the court or justice before
which proceedings shall be
brought for the recovery of said
penalty, that it was not within
the power of such owner or keeper
to kill such dog. Nor shall any
recovery be had unless it shall
satisfactorily appear that such dog
has done the mischief, and that
such owner or keeper has had no-
tice as aforesaid.

An Editor's Luck.

An editor in Chicago recently
ordered a pair of trousers from
the tailor. On trying them on
they proved to be several inches
too long. It being late on Sat-
urday night, the tailor's shop was
closed and the editor took the
trousers to his wife and asked her
to cut them off and hem them
over. The good lady, whose
dinner had perhaps disagreed with
her, brusquely refused. The
same result followed an applica-
tion to the wife's sister and eldest
daughter. But before bed time,
the wife, relenting, took the
pants and, cutting off six inches
from the legs; hemmed them up
nicely and restored them to the
editor. Half an hour later her
daughter, taken with compunc-
tion for the unfilial conduct, took
the trousers, and cutting off six
inches, hemmed and replaced
them. Finally the sister-in-law
felt the pangs of conscience and
she, too, performed an additional
surgical operation on the garment.
When the editor appeared at
breakfast on Sunday the family
thought a Highland chieftain had
arrived.—Ex.

Notice.

All creditors of the estate of
Geo. T. McNeel, deceased are
hereby notified to present their
claims properly proven for settle-
ment. Also all persons holding
said estate as surety on any valid
obligation are notified to proceed
to collect the same at once, or as
soon as due.

M. A. DUNLAP,
Adm'r of Geo. T. McNeel.

Relax.

A faded flower, pressed in a book,
Of perfume once so sweet;
Where is the friend who gave it me?
And echoes, "where?" repeat.

A four-leaved clover, that is all,
Betwixt the pages here,
Embalmed hath lain in solemn
state.

Thro' many a changing year,
A slender ring, a cameo,
A chain and precious stone,—
Each with its little history,
Except to me unknown.

A bit of silk and costly lace,
A rose and orange spray;
And I see a fair young maiden
Upon her wedding day.

Was it last eve, the happy scene
That doth to memory cling?
Ah! the sorrows and the changes
Speak time's most rapid wing.

Some gray hairs intermingled,
My father, mother dear;
So long away, so far away,
And yet so very near.

A broken toy, a china mug,
Christ picture that he loved,
And I see again the sweet young
child.

Who early went to God.

Ah! surely in a better clime,
Beyond this earthly scene,
We'll gather up what we call lost,
The friendships that have been.

Marlinton, W. Va. A. L. P.
Jan. 1904.

FROM COMANCHE STRIP.

**H. A. Clerk Writes up a New Coun-
try.**

Mr. Editor:

We promised to write to many
of our friends and acquaintances
and as it takes a lot of time to
write a letter to each one; we will
just write to The Times so all can
read and find out some facts about
this beautiful country which I am
going to describe as best we can.

We are now located in Comanche
County. This is known as the
Comanche Strip, a new county
opened up two and a half years
ago it is thickly settled; someone
living on every 160 acres. It is
surprising to see the great im-
provements that have been made
in so short a time, in such a
building and cultivating the land.

We have several towns here with
10,000 inhabitants with factories
and machine shops of all descrip-
tions; there are good schools all
through this new country and
every child has an opportunity to
get a good education. The school
houses here are nice large build-
ings, 40 to 60 feet, well furnished
with good seats and other neces-
sary furniture, including a nice
organ. Our school houses are
large enough to seat a good con-
gregation if we had a minister,
but unfortunately they are scarce,
of course there are some in this
country but they are located in
the towns. We certainly do miss
our good meetings that we use to
so much enjoy in old Pocahontas.

This is a fine level productive
country, the soil is fertile, it
grows any thing you plant such as
wheat, corn, oats, cotton, kafir
corn, broom corn, potatoes both
Irish and sweet, melons and veg-
etables of all kinds grow to per-
fection. This is a fine country
for stock such as cattle, horses
and mules, they can live here the
year around without any feed but
it is best to put up some feed in
case of storm for they come here
some times, but not so cold nor
of as long duration as in W. Va.

On the 20th and 21st of January
we had a right bad storm of rain
and snow but it only lasted a day
and night, then it got warmer
again; the snow laid on the ground
about a week. It had been very
dry here before the rain and snow
fell. The farmers are glad to see
the rain and snow come to wet the
ground. They have already com-
menced to plow for oats. This
is a very healthy country so every
person says, and it must be a
healthy country as a number of
people come here for their health
for such as lung trouble, the air
is very pure, no fever nor pneu-
monia ever known to be here
yet so we have been told by those

who have been living here since
the county first opened up. The
water is good and pure and
healthy. We live 30 miles of the
Wichita mountains; there is a
great boom there in the gold ex-
citement; the last test that was
made on the ore was four hundred
and twenty four dollars to the
ton. Land sells from \$1500 to
\$3000 for 160 acres out in the
country, land is advancing rapidly.
There are a good many Indians
here and they are our wealth-
iest people. As the government
gives every Indian, old or young,
160 acres of land, and so you see
if an Indian has as many as four
children, himself and wife, they
would have 640 acres of land all
in one boundary. Quite a num-
ber of white people rent the In-
dian's surplus lands. Besides this
every Indian draws a pension, so
don't say one ever say that an
Indian is mistreated. Besides this
there is fine college here in this
Territory to educate the Indians.

We will endeavor to describe
our trip here to Oklahoma. We
left Seibert for Lahoma, Okla.,
that is in the Cherokee strip, 110
miles north of where we are now,
as I was acquainted with Mitchell
Beard, who was raised on Beaver
Creek, I wrote some two weeks
before we left West Virginia what
train I would be on and for him
to meet us at his depot. As we had
no bad luck on our journey, we
was on time, and Mr. Beard was
there with a conveyance to carry
us to his hospitable home, and
during our stay there we were
kindly and nicely treated by him
and his wife. We found him nice-
ly situated with plenty around
him in a beautiful country. I
think one of the finest wheat
countries I ever saw. I asked
Mr. Beard how much wheat he
raised last year, he told me that
he raised 1800 bushels, some of
his neighbors raised more than he
did, so you see that is pretty good
for 160 acres, with other grain,
such as corn, oats and pasture be-
sides. When I look over this
beautiful country, it seems to me
for fifty years I have been in the
wilderness and have just now
reached the promised land; land
that hasn't been cleaned by the
hands of man, surely is intended
for the children of men to live on.

Here you don't have to take your
wagon and team and go off to the
depot for fertilizer to grow your
wheat and corn, the land will
bring it here without any of that,
you don't have to put up a stack
of hay for each head of stock you
have, here you can make hay if
you wish, if not the stock can live
without it.

I will close with good wishes to
every body, from
J. L. and H. A. Clerk.
Walter, Okla. Ty.

William C. Whitney, Secretary
of the Navy under President
Cleveland is dead. He well de-
served the distinctive title of
"Father of the Navy." When
he took his seat in the Cabinet
the United States ranked with
Portugal as a naval power. Within
four years enough ships
were built bought and under con-
struction to put our navy second
in the lists. He was a very en-
thusiastic breeder and owner of
fast horses. His fortune is esti-
mated at \$25,000,000.

NOTICE!

I have established an agency
in Marlinton, with Mess. S. B.
Wallace & Co. as my agents with
whom watches and jewelry may
be left for repairs, also articles to
be engraved.

They will at once transmit said
work to me, which will receive
immediate attention and be re-
turned to them as early as possible.
Give me a trial on your work.
I guarantee to please you both in
work and prices.

Respectfully,
G. L. EARLE, Watchmaker.
Cass, W. Va.

NORMAN R. PRICE, M. D.
MARLINTON, W. VA.

Office in the Bank of Marlinton

Monterey-Durbin Hack Line.

Many years ago the four horse
stage rumbled along the S. & P.
pike from Staunton, over the
Shenandoah, over the Alleghany
and over Cheat, away into West
Virginia, and carried Uncle Sam's
mail, passengers and freight. This
great road in that day was the
main thoroughfare from Old Vir-
ginia to the undeveloped country
west of the Alleghany, extending
to and beyond the Ohio River,
and Trotter-Bros., stage line did
a thriving business, but then the
railroads came and the trip across
country by stage became too slow.

Down went the stage line, but
the memory of it will live, because
of the famous letter written by
the Mr. Trotter, who could use
cuss words, to the post office de-
partment giving a graphic descrip-
tion of the snow drifts on Cheat.

Since that time until the first
day of this February, Uncle Sam's
mail has been carried across the
Alleghany on horse back. A new
road up the Greenbrier, cities
springing up along it, and numer-
ous industries actively operating
along the line demanded that
Highland, the shut in county, have
better and more prompt connec-
tion with this moving country,
and thus the Durbin mail hack
line sprung into existence. The
first trip was made by contractor
C. W. Trimble and his carrier
Wm. Cobb Feb. 1st, the most un-
favorable day of the winter. Not-
withstanding the snow and the
cold the trip was made on sched-
ule time, and passengers were car-
ried both ways.—Recorder.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids will be received by
the undersigned at his office in
the town of Marlinton, West Vir-
ginia, until
Tuesday, March 1, 1904
at noon, for the construction of a
new piece of public road in the
Greenbrier District, Pocahontas
County, West Virginia, commenc-
ing at the foot of Little Mountain,
east side, on the present road
leading to Cass, thence running
down Deer Creek to the "Bar
Ford," thence around the end of
mountain, and up the west side of
same to the town of Cass, on the
route viewed out and located by
C. L. Austin, II. M. Moore and
J. W. Oliver, viewers, known as
the "Boal's Route," a distance
of 3 miles and 49 rods. Said road
to be built according to the speci-
fications on file with Clerk of the
County Court.

The said route has been staked
off and a map of the same has
been prepared by H. F. Cromer,
surveyor, which is to be seen at
the office of Dr. C. L. Austin in
the town of Cass.

Each bid is to be accompanied
by a bond with good personal se-
curity in a sum of \$500 for the
faithful performance of his con-
tract. The court reserves the
right to reject any or all bids.
S. L. BROWN, Clerk.

Sale of Land Lease.

As administratrix of H. A.
Yeager I will on Monday Febru-
ary 15, 1904, at the front door of
the court house of Pocahontas
county, West Virginia, proceed
to sell at public auction to the
highest bidder the rights under a
timber lease or license given by
Wm. Duncan and wife to H. A.
Yeager on the 22nd day of Aug-
ust, 1899, selling him all the tim-
ber on a tract of land estimated
to contain 25 acres near Buckeye
in said county, on Greenbrier
River between the Dorman and
McClintic lines, and rights of way
to remove the same. Said lease
is recorded in the office of the
clerk of the county court of said
county to which reference may be
made for a more particular dis-
cription of said timber. Said lease
expires on August 22, 1904.

Terms of sale: On a credit of
three months, negotiable note with
good personal security to be given,
REBEKAH F. YEAGER,
Adm'x. of H. A. Yeager.

Notice to the Public

All persons are notified not to
accept any written instrument
purporting to bear my signature
unless they be present and see
me sign it or unless it be prop-
erly witnessed.

JOHN A. GRIFFIN,
Stoney Bottom, W. Va.